



National Invasive Species Council

1951 Constitution Avenue, NW \$ Suite 320 \$South Interior Building \$ Washington, D.C. 20240
(202) 208-6336 \$ Fax: (202) 208-1526 \$ www.invasivespecies.gov

JOINT PRESS RELEASE from Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON DRAFT PLAN TO COMBAT INVASIVE SPECIES

WASHINGTON, October 2, 2000 – The National Invasive Species Council is asking for public input on its Draft National Invasive Species Management Plan.

“Invasive plant and animal species pose very real threats to America’s natural heritage and our economic future,” Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt said. “This new draft federal plan sets out our efforts to address the environmental, ecological, and human health impact of invasive species. We look forward to public input into this plan during the comment period.”

“Invasive species cost the U.S. economy over \$100 billion each year. The development of a National Management Plan is the first step in addressing a serious problem affecting both our environment and economy,” said Commerce Secretary Norman Y. Mineta.

“Invasive species can wipe out crops, plants, and even threaten human lives,” said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. “We need to protect American forests and agriculture from this threat and our plan will help do that.”

Invasive species are non-native (or alien) species that become established in new habitats and cause significant harm to our economy, environment, and in some cases, human health.

Invasive species include weeds that outcompete native grasses and affect agricultural production (especially in the West); aquatic plants that can shut out sunlight in Southeastern waterways; and pathogens like the West Nile virus spread by native mosquitoes in the Northeast.

The Council is made up of seven Federal departments and agencies and is Co-Chaired by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Commerce. Members also include the Secretaries of the Department of Transportation, Department of State, and Department of Defense, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The management plan includes recommendations to improve coordination and leadership; enhance control and management efforts; speed detection and response to recent infestations; enhance international cooperation; support efforts with research; enhance education and outreach programs; improve prevention efforts; and set up a gateway website on invasive species.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the plan can access it online at www.invasivespecies.gov or call 202-208-6336 to request a written copy.

Persons wishing to comment can comment online by November 16, 2000 or send written comments to National Invasive Species Council, 1951 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 320, Washington, DC 20240.

Department of the Interior
Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of State
Department of Defense
Department of Transportation
Department of the Treasury
Environmental Protection Agency

